



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

September 23, 2005

## **ICE SEIZES NEARLY 1,000 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA AT PUYALLUP RESIDENCE - TWO CANADIAN MEN CHARGED**

SEATTLE - Two brothers from Calgary appeared in U.S. District Court here today to face federal drug charges following their arrest by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents earlier this week at a Puyallup residence with an estimated \$3 million worth of marijuana.

Braydon Miraback, 19, and Zachary Miraback, 22, are charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute. The two were taken into custody by ICE agents September 21 at a home on 111<sup>th</sup> Street Court East in Puyallup. According to the criminal complaint, the arrests occurred after ICE agents received a tip that two cars traveling on Interstate 90 were involved in marijuana distribution.

Subsequently, ICE agents spotted the two vehicles, a maroon Toyota Tundra with Colorado license plates and a GMC Spartan Van with Washington plates, traveling in tandem near North Bend. Agents followed the vehicles to a home in Puyallup. As the men climbed out of their vehicles, ICE agents saw large black hockey bags in the back of the van. A Washington State Patrol canine alerted to the presence of the drugs. In all, there were 23 hockey bags containing an estimated 900 to 1,000 pounds of marijuana.

“These arrests continue to highlight the extensive amount of marijuana being smuggled into the United States,” said Leigh Winchell, special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Seattle. “ICE will continue to focus our investigative efforts on this type of criminal activity and those individuals involved.”

The men are scheduled to have a detention hearing September 27 in front of Magistrate J. Kelley Arnold in Tacoma. A preliminary hearing on the charges is set for October 7 before Magistrate Karen Strombom in Tacoma.

If convicted of the charges, the brothers face a mandatory minimum sentence of five years and a maximum sentence of up to 40 years in prison.

# ICE #